



The **FIAT**-isti

July to November 2019
Volume 29, Issue 7

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FEN is a fun-loving group of Italian car (FIAT, Lancia, and Alfa Romeo) enthusiasts who meet regularly throughout the year. In general, our club is geared towards social rather than the technical. The club is incorporated as a nonprofit club in Washington State and is an IRS 501(c)7 tax-exempt social club.

Club meetings are held monthly, except for July and December. A picnic in July and a holiday party in December take the place of regular meetings in those months. The regular meeting location alternates monthly between Shoreline and Renton. FEN also hosts rallies and other events throughout the year.



Note from the Editor — By Pat Kvietkus

This is a combined July-through-November newsletter. This issue has photos of two club events: the SOVREN Pacific Northwest Historics races at Pacific Raceways on the Fourth of July weekend and Fiesta Italiana at Seattle Center on September 28-29.

Please remember to help me report your activities to fill up the newsletter. Also, let us know about fun events to put on our calendar. Participation is what keeps us a vital, relevant club. Again, thank you for your articles, notes, pictures, and comments.

Please use the email at editor@fiatnorthwest.org, to contact me. If you need to reach me by phone, 206-605-8136.

HAPPY
Thanksgiving

SOVREN Pacific Northwest Historics— July 4th Weekend

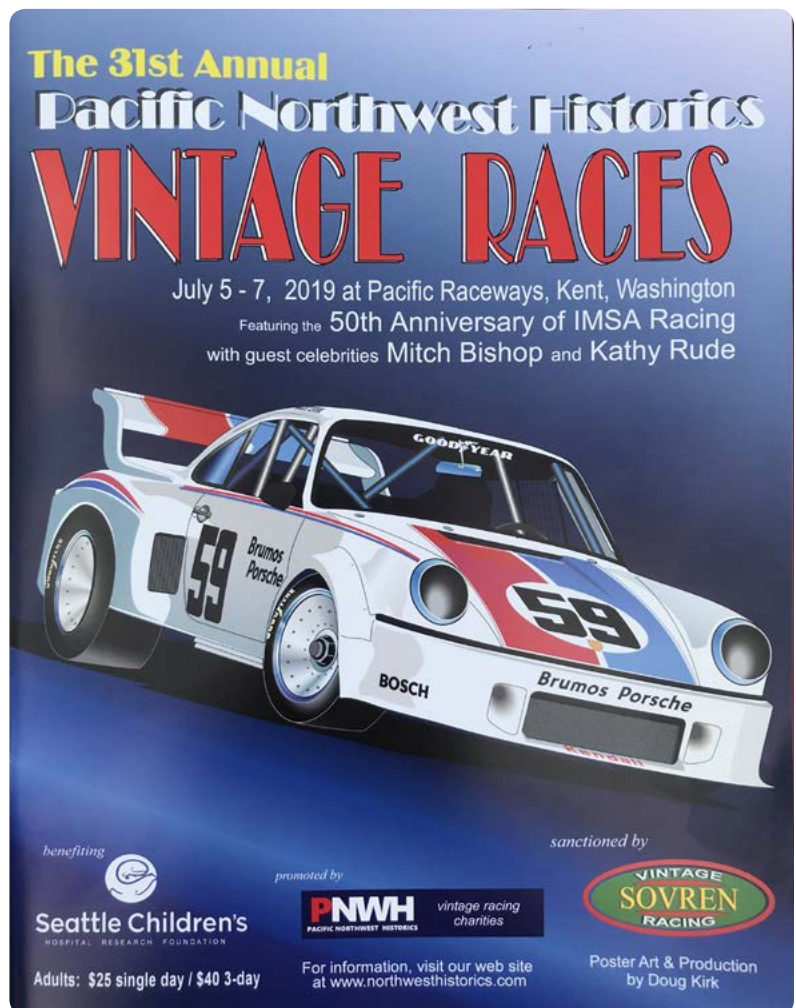
Story by Pat K.

The SOVREN Pacific Northwest Historics were hosted at Pacific Raceways during the Fourth of July weekend. Gene, Brenda, and I represented the Club. There was a strong showing of Italian cars, of which I hope to have gotten some good photos.

It was a typical Pacific Northwest summer day with rain threatening at any time. This must have scared away the public as you can see by the photo of the stands with only a handful of observers. The guest celebrities were Mitch Bishop and Kathy Rude.

Gene brought his 124 FIAT Spider. Unfortunately my Lancia Beta decided to be especially Italian with an electrical problem (the brake lights were not functioning), so I decided to leave it home.

P. S.: Ray resolved the problem by doing his usual magic! 🚗





Although not vintage, the Seahawks-themed paint job above was an eyecatcher.

Photo credits: Pat Kvietkus

SOVREN *Historics, continued*



The day was typical PNW weather. So I am not sure why there were so many noticeably empty seats (see the photo on the opposite page). The demographics, marketing, and groups interested in cars must be changing. I hope the promoters can better reach the public for next year's event.

Although attendance was somewhat light, it was a wonderful day to see vintage racing, hear the cars buzz by, and experience local racing.

Please consider coming out for the 2020 event. Any drivable vehicle can show. The bonus of being in the infield is that with the lunchtime parade laps (three this year), you can take your car. 🚗

Photo Credits: Pat Kvietkus



Festa Italiana at Seattle Center

Story by Pat K.

What a wonderful day it was on September 28—clean crisp air, sun, and not a drop of rain. Participation (people and cars) was light throughout the morning. As temperatures rose, so did the number of people wandering around.

Alex Sargeant promoted the scooter side of the show. Because the Ferrari Club was a no-show, other Italian brands took center stage. The two Alfas were great specimens and were nicely restored. The Alfa SUV was nicely detailed and one of the cleanest daily drivers I have seen. My Beta also presented well.

As usual, folks shared their experiences of past memories with Italian cars. Usually they were remembering childhood or military traveling in Italy. It is nice to share a positive memory.

Remember to put this on your list of things to do next fall. Free parking in Seattle is very rare!

<https://festaseattle.com/> 









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Because of the sudden sad passing of Carrie Rice on November 29, in lieu of a FEN holiday party this year, we suggest that you take some time to send a card, make a call or find another way that you can help support her husband Rex during the very difficult near future.

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Port Townsend WA 98368

A Celebration

of Life memorial will be held for Carrie on Saturday, December 14, at 2 PM at the Harborside Inn,
330 Benedict St.
Port Townsend, WA 98368



*I saw the sign above in Mt. Vernon and decided not to take a chance in parking. I am sure there was a ticket waiting to be placed on my car as soon as I walked away. I was there on a weekend before noon.
Photo and note by Pat K.*



Photo credit: David Moise

FEN Calendar

First Saturday of Each Month

Griot's Garage Caffeine and Gasoline® Cruise-In. At Griot's Garage, 3333 South 38th Street, Tacoma, WA, 8 AM.

December 4 The Regular South Club Meeting at Amante's Pizza & Pasta, 4201 Sunset Blvd NE, has been canceled.

Updated details to be e-mailed.

No updates for 2020 yet.

FIATs in the News

Compiled by Pat Kvietkus

The following is a digest of recent news items relating to FIATs, Alfa Romeos, Maseratis, and other Italian cars.

Clicking on the blue URL links will take you to the corresponding articles on the Internet in your Web browser.

FIAT to pull the 500 from North America market (By Breana Noble, *The Detroit News*, Sept. 3, 2019)

<https://www.detroitnews.com/story/business/autos/chrysler/2019/09/03/fca-fiat-500-end-production-north-america/2197579001/>

FIAT's classic Italian cars are struggling in the US (By Robert Ferris, CNBC, July 8, 2019)

<https://www.cnbc.com/2019/07/05/why-fiats-classic-italian-cars-are-struggling-in-the-us.html>

FIAT 500 Hatchback, Cabrio pulled out of US market (By Jacob Oliva, *Motor 1*, Sept. 1, 2019)

<https://www.motor1.com/news/368265/fiat-500-discontinued-in-us/>

Why FIAT discontinued its iconic 500 Hatchback in the US (By David Morris, *Fortune*, Sept. 4, 2019)

Note: US sales of the 500 have been hammered in recent years. After peaking at 43,772 units in 2012, sales sank to just 5,370 by 2018.

<https://fortune.com/2019/09/04/iconic-fiat-500-hatchback-discontinued-in-u-s/>

2020 FIAT 500e spy shots (By Viknesh Vijayenthiran, *Motor Authority*, July 19, 2019)

<https://www.motoraauthority.com/news/fiat>

FIAT Chrysler manager faces US fraud charges on diesel emissions (*The New York Times*, Sept. 24, 2019)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/24/business/fiat-chrysler-diesel.html>

Peugeot-FIAT merger could affect French company's return to US (By Jack Nerad, *Forbes*, Nov. 1, 2019)

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jacknerad/2019/11/01/psa-fca-merger-could-change-peugeots-us-re-entry-plans/#24fa221d95b2>

Rare Rides: The 1959 Abarth 2200 Coupe Allemano (By Corey Lewis, *The Truth About Cars*, Nov. 6, 2019)

<https://www.thetruthaboutcars.com/category/reviews/fiat-reviews/>
